



Small Deeds, Big Difference: KS3 Lesson Plans

Lesson 1: Love, Devotion and Meaning

Lesson Objectives:

- To analyse the significance of the woman's actions at Bethany
- To evaluate different responses to Jesus' anointing
- To reflect on how love and devotion can be shown in challenging or unpopular ways

Resources

PowerPoint, Bibles or scripture (Matthew 26:6-13) printed.

Starter

Think-Pair-Share

- Show images of expensive items on the board.
- Pupils Think-Pair-Share:
Q. Do you know what these items are and how much they cost? (Answers: Balenciaga trainers £860; iPhone 17Pro £1,200; Louis Vuitton handbag £1,600; Baccarat Rouge 540 £250)
Q. Is anything ever "too valuable" to give away? Why / why not?

Scripture

Read Matthew 26:6–13. Pupils note down the following in the scripture:

- The woman's action
- The disciples' reaction
- Jesus' response
- What Jesus predicts about his death

Question:

- Why do you think the disciples misunderstood the woman's action?

Pope Leo's Reflections

Read Pope Leo's reflections on the story. Discussion: How does Jesus challenge social or religious expectations here? Why might this story still be uncomfortable today?

Activity

Freeze-Frame Drama

Activity:

- In groups, pupils create three freeze-frames: The anointing; The disciples' complaint; Jesus' response.
- Each time pupils freeze, they complete these sentences: "This matters because..."
"I believe this is right/wrong because..."

Plenary

Pupils write a short paragraph describing a situation where doing the right thing might be misunderstood. What can Christians learn from this story?



Lesson 2: Prejudice and Responsibility

Lesson Objectives:

- To explain why Jesus' choice of the Samaritan was surprising
- To explore the theme of prejudice and moral responsibility
- To apply the message to modern social issues

Resources

PowerPoint, Video animation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD-bTuVk2Tw>

Starter

Class Discussion - Scenario: You witness bullying. Intervening might make things worse for you. What options do you have? What would you do?

Scripture

Show the video animation of the Parable of the Good Samaritan and/or read the scripture. Pause to discuss:

- Who had power? Who had responsibility?
- Why did the religious leaders avoid helping?
- Why do you think Jesus felt the need to tell this story?

Pope Leo's Reflections

Read Pope Leo's reflections on the story. Discussion: What do you think are the symptoms of a healthy society?

Activity

The Good Samaritan Today

Activity:

- Pupils re-write the parable in a modern context (school, online, street etc.)
- Include a short explanation of the moral message
- Identify who is being challenged in today's society

Discussion: Who are the "Samaritans" today? Who might we walk past?

Plenary

Pupils answer the question:

"Being a good neighbour always involves personal sacrifice." Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer.



Lesson 3: Faith, Action and Social Justice

Lesson Objectives:

- To interpret Jesus' teaching on judgement and responsibility
- To evaluate the link between belief and action
- To apply Christian teaching to charity and social justice

Resources

PowerPoint, Plain paper for posters.

Starter

Class Discussion: What did the woman at Bethany teach us? What did the Good Samaritan teach us? Link to actions vs. words.

Scripture

Read Matthew 25:35–40. Discussion: What is Jesus saying?

Explain that Jesus is teaching that when we help others, it's as though we are helping Him.

Pope Leo's Reflections

Read Pope Leo's reflections on the passage. Discussion: What does Pope Leo say about faith?

Activity

Catholic Children's Society

Read through the Catholic Children's Society PPT slides and/or ask pupils to research the work of the Catholic Children's Society via their website www.cathchild.org.uk

Activity:

- Create a one-page impact poster OR a short persuasive pitch explaining why people should support the charity.
- Include: Who the charity helps; Why it matters; How this links to Jesus' teaching

Plenary

Pupils write a Lent action statement:

One way I can put faith into action this Lent is...

This matters because...



Links with Catholic Social Teaching

Through engagement with scripture, pupils encounter Jesus' call to recognise the **dignity** of every person, beginning with the woman at Bethany whose loving action is affirmed despite social misunderstanding. The Parable of the Good Samaritan deepens pupils' understanding of **solidarity** and loving one's neighbour without prejudice, challenging them to move beyond indifference to active compassion. In the final lesson, pupils respond to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25 by exploring how faith is expressed through service, justice, and care for the vulnerable, particularly through the work of the Catholic Children's Society. This unit supports pupils' spiritual and moral formation, enabling them to see faith as a lived response to God's call and their vocation to serve the **common good**.

Links with the RECD To Know You More Clearly

Lessons enable pupils to encounter the person of Jesus Christ through close engagement with Scripture, particularly within the context of Lent. The lesson supports pupils in developing secure knowledge of the Gospel message (Hear), deepening their understanding of its meaning and implications (Believe), and responding through reflection, moral reasoning, and action (Live). Through the study of key Gospel passages and their contemporary application, pupils are guided to make connections between Catholic belief and lived discipleship, with a particular focus on justice, compassion, sacrifice, and responsibility. The lesson embeds Catholic Social Teaching by exploring human dignity, solidarity, and care for others, enabling pupils to reflect on how faith is expressed in action. In this way, the lesson fulfils the RECD expectation that Religious Education should form pupils intellectually, morally, and spiritually, supporting their growth as thoughtful, reflective, and socially responsible young people.